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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing precursor solution of bismuth molybdenum hexanoate said process comprising: dissolving molybdenum trioxide in oxalic acid solution, the said solution being concentrated to give a blue coloured solution, adding 2-ethyl hexanoic acid to said blue coloured solution, heating the resulting mixed solution to a temperature in the range of 100 to 150°C for a period in the range of 30 to 60 minutes to remove water, said water free solution being maintained at a temperature in the range of 150 to 250°C for a period in the range of 30[[ mm]] to 90 minutes to obtain a hot brown coloured solution, adding bismuth trioxide slowly to the said brown coloured hot solution under reflux thereby getting bismuth molybdenum hexanoate precursor solution.

21. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the purity of 2 ethyl hexanoic acid may be at least reagent grade.

22. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the oxalic acid solution is prepared in water.